

Victorian Cancer Services Reforms: What do they aim to do?

The *Cancer Services Framework* outlines an integrated service model for metropolitan and rural cancer services which focuses on delivering the right treatment and support to patients, as early as possible in their cancer journey. Hospitals, primary and community health services will develop integrated care and defined referral pathways delivered for the populations they serve. The reforms will be delivered through two mechanisms:

- The establishment of **Integrated Cancer Services (ICS)** to support improvements in the integration and coordination of services within a geographic area. The principles underpinning the ICS are: services will be population focussed; individuals will have access to full range of services from prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, supportive care and palliative care; referral pathways are clearly defined; care is multidisciplinary; and service planning supports a critical mass of expertise and leadership to promote high quality care.
- The **delivery of clinical treatment and care through 10 major tumour streams** that focus on reducing variations of care across the State and promoting best practice through the development and implementation of evidence-based practice and standards of care for each of the tumour streams.

These reforms represent a significant change in thinking about how services will be delivered in the future. The table below identifies some of the differences in how the delivery of cancer services across Victoria will change.

Current cancer service system	Integrated Cancer Service
Health service planning focused on the needs of health services	Health service planning focused on the needs of populations
Health services work independently to deliver services	Health services work together to deliver cancer services
Treatment and care options delivered by location	Treatment and care options planned by streams along the patient pathway
Clinical treatment based on local practice and interpretation of clinical practice guidelines	Clinical treatment based on State-wide standards of practice
Unexplained variation in practice across Victoria	Agreed best practice implemented across Victoria
Management of resources for treatment and care by individual health services	Management of resources for treatment and care by integrated cancer service
Levels and scope of service delivery historical or based on individual experience and expertise	Levels and scope of service delivery based on agreed standards and needs of population